

I had heard of the idea for free wireless internet for US citizens / people in the US years ago, starting mostly in heavily populated areas and moving outward to the less densely populated areas. There were a few problems/issues with this idea, namely, who was going to pay for this massive project and how to keep track of or find illegal activities.

After reading over the National Broadband Plan, there appears to be sufficient methods of paying for the process and materials needed to implement the idea, such as the tax incentives, grants, and the overall lowering of costs for companies qualified for the job. This solves the problem of who is going to pay for it, as before, the ideas thrown out were government funded or subscription based. The problem with these are that, were it a government funding project, it would really be the American taxpayers paying for it, and many would be up in arms over the idea – the lower taxes the better and “why should I pay for someone else's internet?” Now, if the new system of broadband was required and came along with a subscription, that would cause problems, as not everyone could afford it, or perhaps they simply don't want to use it and therefore why would they have to pay a subscription for it? If the broadband was not required to have/use but still included subscription fees, you would again have the problem of people not being able to afford it. This last part should not really be that much of a problem with the National Broadband Plan, as it has various ways of helping or covering costs for low income individuals/families, such as The Federal Universal Service Fund and its Low Income (Lifeline and Link-up) program. But even then, it might be that the lowest income people can't afford it, and there is also the issue of healthcare – with only so much money to go around, would you rather use it to provide people with internet access or medical attention?

There seems to be a lot of ideas and recommendations as to how to get broadband out to everyone in the country, but very little about what to do afterward, and what there is seems to be mostly focused on publishing things and keeping track of broadband plan goals. With such a complex project, I think there should be more about what will be done once it is all set and done. If you have 250 million people all using one infrastructure, how do you keep track of illegal activities when everything is done digitally and tech-savvy people know ways to get around just about anything in the digital world?